

SAN MATEO COUNTY UTILITIES & SUSTAINABILITY TASK FORCE (USTF)

PURPOSE

USTF was convened by the Congestion Management Environmental Committee (CMEQ) to develop an Energy Strategy and to consider other utility related issues such as water conservation and cable issues, if referred or approved by CMEQ. As a subcommittee of CMEQ, the primary emphasis is on environmental issues relating to utilities.

LINE OF REPORTING

USTF is an ad hoc subcommittee of CMEQ (formerly called CMAQ). USTF studies and discusses issues and makes recommendations to CMEQ, which then advises C/CAG. C/CAG can then make recommendations to the cities.

MEMBERSHIP

Membership in USTF consists of 6 elected officials and one representative from each of the following: large business, small businesses, environmental nonprofit, energy expertise, water utilities and energy utility. The committee is staffed by C/CAG and/or San Mateo County employees. Meetings are open to the public and interested people are encouraged to attend and participate. (See Committee Roster)

MEETING TIME AND LOCATION

Meetings are on the third Thursday of each month, from 3 – 5 pm. Meetings are held at 155 Bovet Road, San Mateo, in the first floor conference room provided by BAWSCA.

DURATION OF EXISTENCE

The committee will complete the Energy Strategy for San Mateo County and will continue with other utility issues as requested or approved by CMEQ.

ENERGY STRATEGY FOR 2026 WORK PLAN

Purpose (as requested by CMEQ)

To consider the future energy needs of the county and to identify and recommend solutions that will address these needs in an environmentally, socially and fiscally responsible manner. (Energy includes electricity and natural gas and water as it affects energy use but not transportation fuels, which are already addressed by CMEQ with transportation issues).

Objectives (Desired Outcomes)

The strategy will ensure that:

- Energy is consistently available and affordable for all residential, commercial and industrial users in San Mateo County.
- Energy will be consistently available and affordable for future generations of San Mateo residents and businesses.
- The environmental impact of energy production is minimized to the greatest extent possible.
- Local officials are involved in PG&E's planning process regarding local production, transmission and distribution of energy, for both centralized and distributed generation.
- Policy makers and the public understand the impact of their actions, make wise energy choices and utilizing existing and future programs.
- The linkage between water and energy use is understood and recognized.
- San Mateo County is a leader in providing solutions for energy efficiency and greenhouse gas reduction.

Guiding Principles

These principles will guide the development of the recommendations in the Energy Strategy:

- San Mateo County communities will, to the greatest extent feasible, establish standards that are consistent within the county and across the Bay Area, and by sharing programs and educational materials. Applicable actions from the California Energy Action Plan will be included in the local strategy.
- Leverage all existing and future federal, state, regional and public purpose (such as PG&E-administered) programs to the greatest extent feasible.
- Government agencies should lead by example in reducing energy and water usage, enforcing regulations and educating citizens about energy issues.
- The City/County of San Francisco's energy use is inseparably linked to San Mateo County's use; therefore, future strategies must be collaborative and consider the needs of both Counties.
- The process for developing the plan and recommendations is transparent and open.
- Quick and visible wins are important for building credibility and commitment; if solutions that are easy to implement are identified during the process, these can be recommended to CMEQ prior to the full report.
- Policies and programs should be designed to meet long-term goals.
- As set forth in the California State Energy Action Plan II, conservation, efficiency, and demand management are the preferred ways to reduce energy use. Should new generation or infrastructure be required, it will be done in with the least possible environmental impact.
- Energy solutions will be pursued that support economic development and offer new job opportunities.
- Future land-use planning and development will include responsible energy decisions.
- Public education and awareness programs promote responsible energy and other resources use by the public.
- Recommendations take into account environmental justice impacts.
- Decisions will not increase greenhouse gases and will preferably contribute towards significant reductions.

Actions/Tasks

- 1. Educate Committee**
- 2. Develop Strategy** (Set short-term, medium-term and long-term goals, with milestones and metrics, vision, etc.)
- 3. Present to CMEQ, CCAG and City Councils**
- 4. Identify potential programs/policies or actions**
- 5. Prioritize Options & Allocate Resources**
- 6. Identify Entity Responsible for Overall Strategy & Plan**
- 7. Draft Energy Strategy Report**
- 8. Provide for Public Outreach and Comments**
- 9. Refine and Finalize Strategy**
- 10. Develop detailed implementation plan**
- 11. Implement Action Plan**
- 12. Measure, Monitor and Report Results**
- 13. Update Strategy and Plan (5 or 10 years)**